

CONTINUOUS TENSES

Total tenses are twelve only twelve only

Often we use three only three only

First is pre. cont. / second is past cont. / third is fu. cont.

All three tenses are continuous.....

- Total tenses

Subject am is are v4 is rule for present continuous -2

I am going. You are coming. We are eating. They are running

He is shouting. She is singing. It is sinking.....

- Total tenses

Subject was were v4 is rule for past continuous -2

I was thinking. We were clapping. You were swimming. They were jumping

He was talking. She was speaking. It was walking.....

- Total tenses

Subject will be shall be v4 is rule for future continuous -2

I'll be standing. We'll be reading. You'll be writing. They'll be riding.

He'll be driving. She will be diving. It will be dreaming.....

- Total tenses

Present continuous Tense

1: First, we use it for things that are happening at the moment of speaking.

- I'm working at the moment.
- Please call back as— we are eating dinner now.
- Julie is sleeping.
- You are studying the present continuous.

2: We can also use this tense for temporary situations, when we feel something won't continue for a long time.

- She's staying with her friend for a week.
- I'm living in London for a few months.
- John's working in a bar until he finds a job in his field.
- I'm reading a really great book.

Compare this with the [present simple](#), which is used for permanent situations that we feel will continue for a long time.

3: We can use the present continuous for habits but they have to be temporary or new habits (for normal habits that continue for a long time, we use the [present simple](#)).

- He's eating a lot these days.
- She's swimming every morning (she didn't use to do this).
- You're smoking too much.
- They're working late every night.

4: Another present continuous use is for annoying habits, when we want to show that something happens too often and we don't like it. In this case we usually use an adverb like 'always', 'forever' or 'constantly'.

- You're always losing your keys!
- She's constantly missing the train.
- He's always sleeping in.
- They're forever being late.

5: The next use is for definite future arrangements (with a future time word). In this case we have already made a plan and we are pretty sure that the event will happen in the future.

- I'm meeting my father tomorrow.
- We're going to the beach at the weekend.
- I'm leaving at three.
- They're coming to the party at the weekend.

6: Finally we use this tense to talk about a situation which is slowly changing.

- I'm getting better at playing the piano.
- The weather is improving.

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes / No Questions |
| Am I eating chocolate ? |
| Are you studying now ? |
| Is he working ? |
| Is she doing her homework ? |
| Is it raining ? |
| Are we meeting at six ? |
| Are they coming ? |

For '**wh**' questions, just put the question word at the front:

Wh Questions

Why **am** I **eating** chocolate ?

What **are** you **studying** now ?

When **is** he **working** ?

What **is** she **doing** ?

Why **is** it **raining** ?

Who **are** we **meeting** ?

How **are** they **travelling** ?

PAST CONTINUOUS

Here's the **positive** form:

- I was sleeping
- you were working
- he was coming
- she was reading 'War and Peace'
- it was raining
- we were shopping
- they were watching a film

Next, here's the **negative** - it's very easy, just add 'not':

- I was not (wasn't) sleeping
- you were not (weren't) working
- he was not (wasn't) coming
- she was not (wasn't) reading 'War and Peace'
- it was not (wasn't) raining
- we were not (weren't) shopping
- they were not (weren't) watching a film

And, just like the **past simple with 'be'**, to make a **'yes / no' question**, put 'was / were' in front of the subject:

- Was I listening?
- Were you working?
- Was she working?
- Was he living in Paris at the time?
- Was it snowing when you arrived?
- Were we eating?
- Were they studying?

To make a '**wh**' **question** (of course) put the question word at the beginning:

- Why was I working?
- Where were you living?
- How was she travelling?
- Where was he going?
- Why was it snowing in the summer?
- What were we eating?
- Why were they studying?

1	<p>A continuous action in the past which is interrupted by another action or a time:</p> <p>I was taking a bath when the telephone rang. At three o'clock, I was working.</p>
2	<p>Background information, to give atmosphere to a story:</p> <p>It was a beautiful day. The birds were singing, the sun was shining and in the cafes people were laughing and chatting.</p>
3	<p>An annoying and repeated action in the past, usually with 'always':</p> <p>He was always leaving the tap running. (In the same way as the Present Continuous)</p>
4	<p>For two actions which happened at the same time in the past:</p> <p>I was watching TV and he was reading.</p>

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

The **positive** (will + be + verb-ing):

At 10 am tomorrow,

- I will be sleeping
- you will be working
- she will be studying
- it will be raining
- he will be cooking
- we will be eating breakfast
- they will be travelling

In the same way as with the **future simple**, usually we use the short form ('ll be verb-ing) when we are speaking. Sometimes students don't use the short form, because they are not sure how to pronounce it. Here are some examples to help.

- I'll be sleeping
 - you'll be working
 - she'll be studying
 - it'll be raining
 - he'll be cooking
 - we'll be eating breakfast
 - they'll be travelling
- Here's the **negative**

When John gets home,

- I will not be working (I won't be ..)
- you will not be reading (you won't be ..)
- he will not be cooking (he won't be ..)
- she will not be studying (she won't be ..)
- it will not be snowing (it won't be ..)
- we will not be watching TV (we won't be ..)
- they will not be sleeping (they won't be ..)

As with the positive, we usually use the short form (won't + be + verb-ing) when speaking.

Next, the **question**:

'yes / no' questions:

When arrives at the party,

- will I be cooking?
- will you be dancing?
- will she be singing?
- will he be eating?
- will we be drinking?
- will it be snowing?
- will they be talking?

'wh' questions:

Next weekend,

- what will I be doing?
- where will you be working?
- how will she be travelling?
- what will he be eating?
- why will we be studying?
- why will it be snowing?
- what will they be wearing?